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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 1313/1G317-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Paavo HYVARINEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/988,897

Art Unit: 1722

Confirmation No.:

Filed: November 19, 2001

Examiner: D. Heckenberg Jr.

For: **SCREEN PIPE FOR DRY FORMING WEB MATERIAL**

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

June 16, 2003

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va 22313-1450
Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2003, Applicants respond as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, please ~~replace~~ the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

B1 This is a continuation of international application Serial No. PCT/US00/14631, filed May 26, 2000, published as WO 00/73032 in the English language, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please ~~add~~ the following claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

B2 17. (Newly Added) A screen pipe according to claim 12, wherein the downstream edge (8a) and the upstream edge (8b) are formed along the inner surface of a continuous body of the screen pipe (1).

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application with claim 17 having been added by way of this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful consideration and favorable treatment of claims 1-11 and 16, which were indicated as being allowed, and claims 13 and 15, which were indicated as being allowable if rewritten.

The Examiner has requested that Applicants amend the "Cross Reference to Related Application" paragraph so that it indicates whether the parent PCT application was published in the English. Applicants have amended this paragraph to indicate that the PCT application was published in the English language.

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laursen et al. in view of Chung. The Examiner states that Laursen teaches all of the claimed aspects of claim 12 except that it fails to show the claimed features of the downstream and upstream edges of the groove. The Examiner looks to Chung for the teaching of a profiled groove including an acute angle at a downstream end compared to the angle at the upstream end.

Applicants respectfully submit that a summary of Chung is in order. Chung discloses a fiber processing apparatus having slotted outlets. More specifically, the apparatus includes supported spaced-apart metal plates through which fibers exit the apparatus. While the Examiner refers to Fig. 4 of Chung as providing openings that have edges that are angled with respect to the air flow, the Examiner has not specifically labeled or indicated which edges act in the aforementioned claimed manner.

In any event, Applicants traverse the rejection on the grounds that there is a lack of motivation to combine the two cited references. The primary Laursen et al. reference generally illustrates and describes a drum that has a number of apertures formed therein; however, there is absolutely no teaching on modifying the construction of the drum and more specifically, the inner surface thereof at each of the apertures so that the apertures are defined by two different angled edges. Instead, the edges appear to be of the same type, namely a straight, vertical edge. The Examiner asserts that one of skill would look to the Chung reference for the

teaching of how to modify the inner surface of the screen pipe. Applicants respectfully disagree

Serial No. 09/988,897

Docket No. 1313/1G317us1

Response to March 17, 2003 Office Action

with such a conclusion on the grounds that the Chung device bears very little resemblance to the claimed screen pipe. More specifically, the outlet of the Chung apparatus includes the spaced-apart metal plates or dividers. Unlike the claimed screen pipe and the apparatus of Laursen et al, the edges that might be formed as part of the metal plates of Chung are not part of profiled grooves formed on an inner surface of the jacket. The metal plates are merely separate structural elements that are arranged and preferably angled relative to the surrounding section to form the outlet of the apparatus. Applicants respectfully submit that the metal plates of Chung are not the same or even similar to the claimed profiled groove that is formed in the inner surface of the jacket. A groove has a conventional meaning of being a long, narrow channel in a surface. Applicants respectfully suggest that in no way does Chung disclose or even remotely suggest the formation of a profiled groove but rather merely teaches the arrangement of metal plates.

In addition, one of skill in the art would not look towards Chung for making improvements to the Laursen et al. apparatus due to the fact that the apertures of Laursen et al. and the metal plates of Chung do not serve the same purpose and in fact perform opposite functions. The upstream and downstream edges formed in the claimed screen pipe act to direct the fibrous material through the slot and onto a receiving member below the screen pipe. Conversely, the leading edge and the other unidentified edge of the metal plates of Chung serve to actually deflect the fibrous material back into the apparatus away from the slot. It deflects larger particles so that they can be broken down more before they are ultimately ejected through the space formed between the metal plates. This is yet another reason a skilled artisan would not look towards the Chung reference for making improvements to the Laursen et al. design.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that one or more

features of the claimed screen pipe are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference

Serial No. 09/988,897

Docket No. 1313/1G317us1

Response to March 17, 2003 Office Action

either alone or taken in combination. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 12 are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 should be allowed as being dependent upon what should be an allowed independent claim 12.

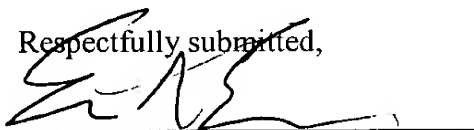
Claim 17 has been added by way of this amendment and should be allowed for the following reason. Claim 17 further defines that the groove is formed in an inner surface of a continuous body of the screen pipe.

At this time, allowance of claims 1-17 is in order.

Each and every point in the Office Action dated March 17, 2003 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants

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